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ABSTRACT

This bulletin presents national data on college student exposure to senior faculty at institutions of higher education measured as the percentage of a student's classroom time spent with full or associate professors. Highlights of the data are: (1) at research, doctoral, and comprehensive institutions in both 1987 and 1992, the majority of upper division and graduate students' classroom exposure to faculty was with senior faculty (full or associate professors); (2) at comprehensive institutions in 1992, undergraduate students in lower division courses had less classroom exposure to senior faculty than did students in upper division courses; and (3) students in undergraduate courses at research institutions had about the same classroom exposure to senior-level faculty as did students in undergraduate courses at comprehensive and liberal arts institutions. The bulletin includes a table and a graph showing the percentage of classroom hours during which 4-year college and university students are exposed to faculty of different ranks, by type of institution, level of class, and course division in the fall of 1987 and 1992. (JB)

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INDICATOR OF THE MONTH

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October 1995

Student exposure to faculty at institutions of higher education

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Student exposure to faculty at institutions of higher education

An institution's most experienced faculty are its senior faculty. They have more teaching, research, and administrative experience. More contact with these faculty may enhance the quality of the learning environment for students at colleges and universities. One measure of a student's contact with senior faculty is the percentage of a student's classroom time spent with full or associate professors.

- **At research, doctoral, and comprehensive institutions in both 1987 and 1992, the majority of classroom exposure to faculty for students in undergraduate upper division courses and graduate courses was with senior faculty—full professors and associate professors.**
- **At comprehensive institutions in 1992, undergraduate students in lower division courses had less classroom exposure to senior faculty than did students in upper division courses.**
- **Students in undergraduate courses at research institutions had about the same classroom exposure to senior-level faculty as did students in undergraduate courses at comprehensive and liberal arts institutions. However, for undergraduate students in classes taught by senior-level faculty, those at research institutions were more likely to be in classes of more than 50 students than those at comprehensive and liberal arts institutions.**

Percentage of classroom hours 4-year college and university students are exposed to faculty of different ranks, by type of institution, level of classes, and course division: Fall 1987 and fall 1992

	Fall 1987					Fall 1992				
	Type of institution and course division					Type of institution and course division				
Faculty rank	Total	Research	Doctoral	Comprehensive	Liberal arts	Total	Research	Doctoral	Comprehensive	Liberal arts
Undergraduate, lower division courses						**Undergraduate, lower division courses**				
Full professor	30.4	33.6	[1]28.5	30.1	27.3	27.1	29.2	24.7	27.0	26.7
Associate professor	26.3	34.5	28.6	22.4	20.6	23.6	34.3	22.5	20.4	20.8
Assistant professor	20.5	16.7	19.7	20.6	29.0	22.7	13.2	27.0	24.9	23.7
Instructor	12.8	[1]4.1	17.0	16.6	12.8	17.1	12.1	17.0	18.9	18.0
Lecturer	8.1	10.6	4.9	8.7	4.5	7.4	11.1	7.4	6.9	3.8
Other	1.9	0.5	1.3	1.7	5.8	2.2	0.2	1.4	2.0	7.0
Undergraduate, upper division courses						**Undergraduate, upper division courses**				
Full professor	31.1	36.2	31.4	29.4	24.6	32.7	35.6	30.0	33.1	28.6
Associate professor	25.5	30.6	[1]27.7	22.9	19.7	25.9	28.3	25.2	25.6	23.3
Assistant professor	25.7	18.9	24.5	27.5	38.8	23.4	21.8	25.1	23.1	25.5
Instructor	8.8	7.0	9.3	9.0	12.6	10.3	5.0	11.9	11.2	14.7
Lecturer	7.4	6.1	6.6	9.9	0.6	5.7	8.9	5.1	4.6	4.7
Other	[1]1.4	1.3	0.6	[1]1.3	3.7	2.0	0.4	2.7	2.3	3.2
Graduate courses						**Graduate courses**				
Full professor	[1]41.8	44.0	39.2	38.3	(2)	40.3	46.3	46.9	32.8	(2)
Associate professor	[1]28.5	27.2	35.7	26.6	(2)	24.4	25.9	15.9	28.3	(2)
Assistant professor	[1]19.3	19.9	20.7	17.5	(2)	18.7	12.1	29.1	19.5	(2)
Instructor	4.3	1.7	3.2	10.1	(2)	10.3	8.7	4.5	13.1	(2)
Lecturer	3.8	3.2	[1]0.8	7.2	(2)	3.9	4.1	2.3	4.2	(2)
Other	[1]2.4	4.0	0.3	0.3	(2)	2.4	3.0	1.2	2.1	(2)

[1] Revised from previously published figures.

[2] Too few responses for a reliable estimate.

NOTE: Total student classroom hours are calculated as the number of classroom hours per week times the number of students in each course summed over all classes, as reported by faculty members. The percentages are calculated as the sum of the classroom hours spent with faculty of a particular rank divided by total student classroom hours.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

U.S. Department of Education **Office of Educational Research and Improvement**

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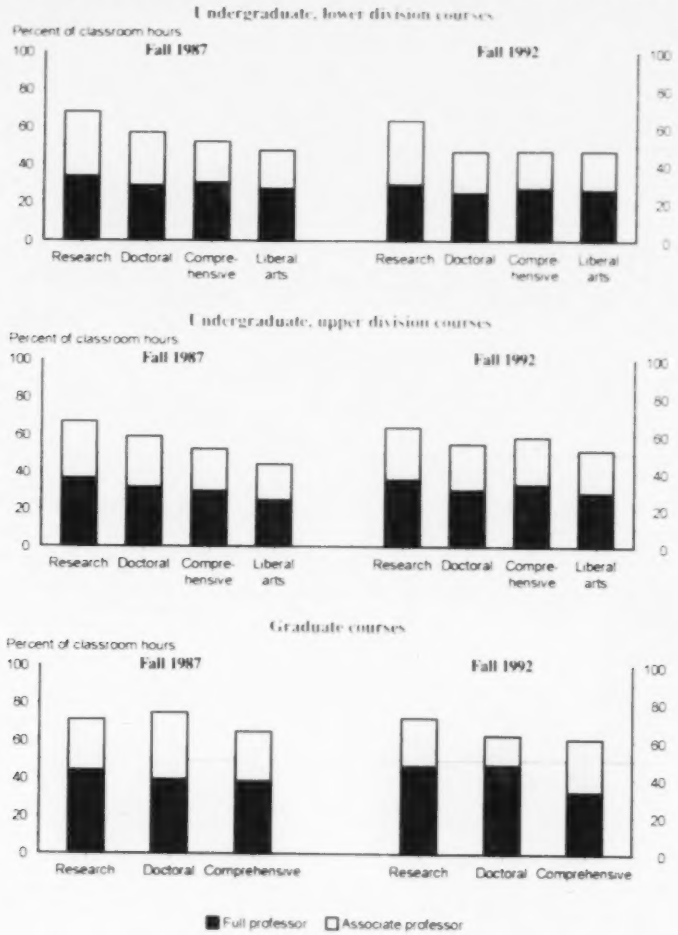
Percentage of classroom hours 4-year college and university students are exposed to senior faculty, by type of institution and course division: Fall 1987 and fall 1992



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

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